

REPLY BRIEF

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------|--------------|
| Applicants: | Mikihiro Gau, et al. | Examiner: | Traci Casler |
| Serial No: | 09/965,174 | Art Unit: | 3629 |
| Filed: | September 27, 2001 | Docket: | 14948 |
| For: | AGILE INFORMATION SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM | Dated: | May 30, 2008 |

Confirmation No.: 3942

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

Appellant respectfully submits this Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer dated April 2, 2008.

(A) Reference Does Not Teach “defining a process flow comprising a relationship among a plurality of business procedures”.

The Examiner asserts that Wilson teaches “defining a process flow comprising a relationship among a plurality of said business procedures” in paragraph [0050] found on page 7, because Wilson creates multiple scenarios in which the demand information can be supplied to the user. Appellant disagrees.

Appellant's invention, as recited in the independent claims, includes a business procedure master comprising a business procedure comprising a generation sequence of said plurality of sets of information, and a process flow comprising a relationship among a plurality of said business procedures.

Initially, appellant points out that Wilson teaches a process for selecting a shipping warehouse based upon the location of the consumer and the ability of the warehouse to fulfill the order (page 1, paragraph [0007]). Wilson does not teach or suggest a process flow comprising a relationship among a plurality of said business procedures because, *inter alia*, he does not teach or suggest a plurality of business procedures or a plurality of generation sequences having a relationship among them. The technique that Wilson uses to create his solitary generation sequence, whether or not an order is a rush, is simple binary logic. This cannot be expanded to creating a relationship among a plurality of business procedures.

In the present invention, a relationship among a plurality of business procedures is defined in a process flow. Figure 5 shows business procedures 400, 500, 600, and 601, each comprising “a plurality of sets of information comprising said demand information and said supply information generated by said demand information” as follows. 400 comprises assembly instruction demand, and assembly results supply; 500 comprises 500-1, 500-2, 500-3, 500-4; 600 comprises purchasing order demand, and purchasing results supply; 601 comprises purchasing order demand, purchasing results supply, incoming inspection demand, and inspection results supply. Hence, business process 500, for example, has a generation sequence of 500-1, 500-2, 500-3 and 500-4.

Figure 5 further illustrates the business process flow master as defining a process flow having a relationship among a plurality of said business procedures, that is, a relationship among procedures 400, 500, 600 and 601. The relationship illustrated is that after 500-1 of business procedure 500, either procedure 600 or procedure 601 is performed, in accordance with the procedure for purchasing by the purchasing section A3 as described in the specification on page 16, lines 5-6.

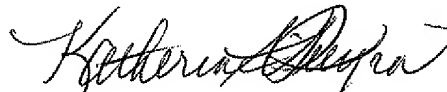
Hence, the present invention recites, in the independent claims, defining a process flow comprising a relationship among a plurality of business procedures, which is a feature that is not taught by the art of record in the application. Therefore, the art of record does not anticipate the independent claims of the present invention.

(B) Conclusion

Based on the above arguments and remarks, Appellant respectfully submits that the claims of the instant invention on appeal are not anticipated by Wilson. Consequently, the rejections of the claims based on such reference are in error. In view of the remarks submitted hereinabove, the reference applied against Claims 7-12 on appeal does not render those claims unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Thus, Appellant submits that the § 102 rejections are in error and must be reversed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection herewith to Deposit Account No. 19-1013/SSMP.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine R. Vieyra".

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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)**

Docket No.
14948

In Re Application Of: **Mikihiro Gau et al.**

| Application No. | Filing Date | Examiner | Customer No. | Group Art Unit | Confirmation No. |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| 09/965,174 | September 27, 2001 | Traci Casler | 23389 | 3629 | 3942 |

Title: **AGILE INFORMATION SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Reply Brief

in the above identified application.

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
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Signature

Dated: **May 30, 2008**

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